



**CHRISTIAN  
ENDEAVOUR**  
*for Christ and the Church*



# The Ten Commandments

## What's in a name?

### Do not misuse God's name

Exodus 20:7

#### Teaching Aim

To show how serious it is to misuse God's Name.

#### Setting the scene

Do any of you know what your name means or why you were given it? Has anyone ever made fun of your names, mispronounced them or spelt them wrongly? Our names are important to us and we want people to use them properly. Do any of you know what is the most important name in the Bible? - God's Name. Let's find out what God says about the use of His Name.

#### The importance of God's Name

In the Bible, names were chosen very carefully for their meaning for they were meant to tell you something about the character of the person. God's Name is more than just a word, it's very special and tells us much about His person and character.

Read Exodus 20:7. What does God say about our use of His Name? - we're not to misuse it. This Commandment applies to any name used for God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit so we must be careful to respect them all. When God spoke to Moses at the burning bush, what Name did He call Himself by? - I AM, which probably referred to His eternal, unchanging, all sufficient character.

What do you think about when you hear God's Name or when you use it? Is it as a swear word which dishonours Him or is it as a prayer or praise to honour Him?

#### Misusing God's Name

How do people misuse God's Name? - as a swear word when something exciting, surprising or terrible happens to them or as a curse when they're angry and want to blame someone for something bad that has happened. We hear the Name of God or Jesus misused on TV and radio, in shops, in school play grounds and in many other places nearly every day. Why do people misuse God's Name? - Perhaps young people hear their friends doing it and they think it makes them appear cool; maybe people don't believe that God exists, don't think He hears or don't even care. To misuse God's Name is an insult to Him and shows that those who do it don't love Him or don't understand anything about His greatness or glory. We can dishonour God's Name by how we behave as well as by what we say. If we say we're Christians, that we belong to God's family, and keep on doing things which we know are wrong, we're dishonouring God's Name. Read Exodus 20:7 again. What does God say He will do to those who misuse His Name? - will not hold them guiltless, which means He will punish them.

Read Leviticus 24:10-16 and 23 to see how seriously God looks on the misuse of His Name. God ordered that a man who had done this was to be stoned to death. God doesn't ignore disrespect for His Name. If you know that you've broken this Commandment and are really sorry, God will forgive you if you ask Him.

## Respecting God's Name

How should we use God's Name? - it's not just a matter of not using God's Name as a swear word but of giving Him the honour He deserves. We can only do that after we have called upon His Name to save us from our sins. Then we can really call Him our Father and Lord and thank Him and praise Him for all He has done for us. King David found much to praise God's glorious Name for. Read Psalm 145:1-17 and complete Activity Sheet to find some of the reasons why we should praise God. Can we praise God even when bad things happen to us? - Yes, a man called Job who had terrible things happen to him because of the devil set us a good example. The devil tried to get Job to blame his suffering on God. Did he? - Read Job 1:20-22. Even Job's wife told him to curse God. Did he? - Read Job 2:9. Job loved God and refused to break His Commandment and God blessed Him later. You mustn't misuse God's Name even if the devil tempts you. Ask God to help you to honour His Name.

## Summing up

God tells us that we must not misuse His Name and warns that He will punish those who do. We must call on Jesus to save us. If we ask God to help us to control our words and our behaviour, He will.

## Resources

### Memory Verse

"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. Exodus 20:7

### Activities

Under 8s Activity Sheet "Third Commandment - Do not misuse God's name - 1".

Over 8s Activity Sheet "Third Commandment - Do not misuse God's name - 2".

### Prayer Points

Thank God:

- For all the good things He gives us.
- That He can help us to resist the devil.

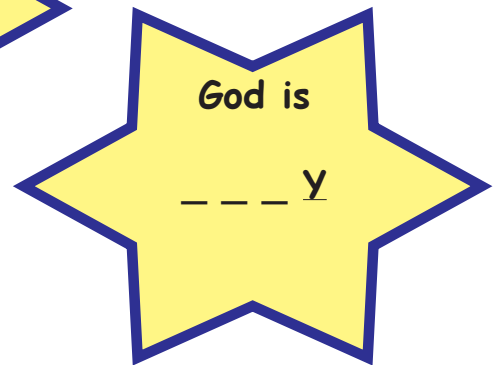
Pray that:

- You will not misuse God's Name even if others do.
- All your friends will call on the Name of Jesus to have their sins forgiven.

# Do not misuse God's name

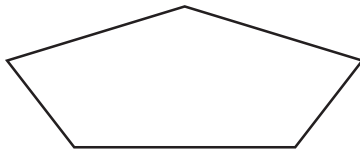
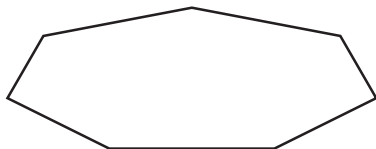
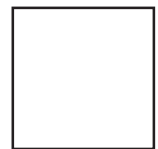
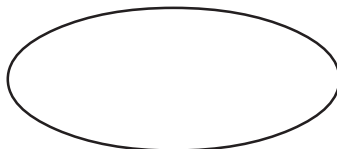
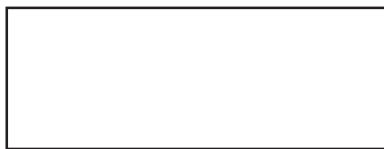
Choose a word from the list below to complete the stars.

great love good holy powerful



## Match the shapes

Cut out the bottom shapes and paste in the top ones to find the memory verse.



Exodus  
20:7

